

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A treatment element for the accommodation of dental hand instruments, comprising a base module [(1)] having connectors [(39)] for the supply of media to the instruments, furthermore comprising a top module [(4; 12)] including an instrument holder (5; 15), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said top module [(4; 12)] is interchangeable and that the ~~base module (1)~~ treatment element treatment element can, by changing the top module [(4; 12)], be converted from a type of apparatus having hanging instrument hoses into a whip-arm hose support type of apparatus.
2. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said top module can be releasably connected to said base module by hand.
3. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein connectors [(39)] are disposed on the underside of the base module [(1)].
4. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3,~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said top module [(4; 12)] is equipped with a control panel [(7; 19)].
5. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4,~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said top module [(4; 12)] is equipped with an instrument holder [(5; 15)] forming a separate component.

6. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said top module [(4)] and said instrument holder (5) are adapted for the accommodation of instruments having hanging instrument hoses.
7. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said top module [(4)] has a flat receptacle [(6)] and the instrument holder [(5)] has docking bays [(9)] for holding instruments.
8. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said top module [(12)] and said instrument holder [(15)] are adapted to guide the instrument hoses over the treatment element.
9. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein on the top module [(12)] there are mounted swivel arms or whip arms and that the instrument holder [(15)] has troughs [(16)] for the accommodation of the instruments.
10. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said connectors [(2;39)] can be shifted from a position for the attachment of a hanging instrument hose to a position for the attachment of a hose from the front.
11. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that~~ claim 1, including an instrument removal detector (71) ~~is provided~~ which can be converted from a state for the detection of instruments having hanging instrument

hoses to a state for the detection of instruments having swivel-arm or whip-arm hose supports.

12. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said instrument removal detector [(71)] can be displaced from said base module [(1)] to said top module [(12)].
13. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in claim 11 ~~or claim 12~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a single instrument removal detector [(71)] is provided on the base module [(1)] for use with both types of apparatus.
14. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said top module [(91)] has a frame member [(94)] and an insert [(95; 101)] which insert [(95; 101)] is designed according to the type of apparatus required.